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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,948	01/21/2004	Jurgen Bethke	071308.0501	3937

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BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
PATENT DEPARTMENT
98 SAN JACINTO BLVD., SUITE 1500
AUSTIN, TX 78701-4039

EXAMINER

ALLEN, ANDRE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2855

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AL

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/761,948	Applicant(s) BETHKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Andre J. Allen	Art Unit 2855	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Albert et al (US 6494088).

Regarding claims 1 and 12 Albert et al teaches a base plate 9, at least one pressure sensor 12, which is connected to the base plate 9, and a counter plate 4, on which the base plate with the pressure sensor 12 or sensors can be mounted (col. 4 lines 35-45), and which has drilled holes 18 through which pressure can be applied to the pressure sensor or sensors (col. 4 lines 10-20) wherein precisely one pressure sensor has a

connecting element 20, which projects (col. 4 lines 45-50), in the mounted state, into one of the drilled holes 18 in the counter plate 4.

Regarding claims 2 and 13 Albert et al teaches a sealing element 19 is provided

on the connecting element 20, in the region which is located in the drilled hole in the counter after mounting (col. 4 lines 35-50)

Regarding claims 3 and 4 Albert et al teaches at least one further electronic component/control circuit 13 is arranged on the base plate (col. 4 lines 11-24).

Regarding claim 7 Albert et al teaches the pressure sensor is a piezo-electric sensor (col. 4 lines 20-22).

Regarding claim 8 Albert et al teaches the base plate is composed of a metal or of plastic.(col. 4 line 53).

Regarding claim 9 Albert et al teaches a sensor 12 arranged on a carrier 16.

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Regarding claim 10 Albert et al teaches bonding, welding or soldering (col. 2 lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 11 Albert et al teaches the electronic component is an amplifier (col. 4 lines 25-28).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 5,6,14 and 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albert et al (US 6494088) in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Regarding claims 5,6,14 and 15 Albert et al does not teach a centering pin which is pressed into the base plate or the counter plate to a form fit, and is introduced into a elongated guide hole of the respective other plate. AAPA teaches a centering pin which is pressed into the base plate or the counter plate to a form fit, and is introduced into a elongated guide hole of the respective other plate [0009].

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art of pressure sensing arrangements at the time the invention was made to modify the arrangement taught by Albert et al with a pin structure as taught by AAPA for the purpose of ensuring that the mechatronic module is mounted in an accurately positioned fashion (AAPA 0009).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre J. Allen

whose telephone number is 571-272-2174. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

André Allen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2855



William Oen
Primary Examiner